

**Testimony of
Jerry Farrell, Jr.
Commissioner of Consumer Protection**

Presented to the Judiciary Committee

March 16, 2009

In Support of SB-844 "An Act Concerning Methamphetamines"

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, Senator Kissel, Representative O'Neill and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Jerry Farrell, Jr., Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection. It is my pleasure to address you today in support of Governor's Bill, SB-844, "An Act Concerning Methamphetamines."

This bill, which you are undoubtedly very familiar with, is included in Governor Rell's legislative package. A very similar proposal was introduced in last year's session, and was subsequently favorably reported by this committee, and I respectfully urge your support once again—and for a very important reason: Methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug that is causing major health and safety issues in many states around the country. With passage of this legislation, we hope to prevent this drug from gaining a foothold in the communities of our State.

This proposal will assist the Department's Drug Control Division in restricting the ability to purchase mass quantities of pseudophedrine, a necessary component in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Because this proposal parallels the federal requirements already in place, retail outlets and consumers should not see the bill as a burden. The majority of vendors are in compliance with the requirement that pseudophedrine be kept behind the counter, where supervision of the product can be achieved.

The proposal increases the criminal penalties in Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-267 from a Class "A" misdemeanor to a Class "D" felony for the delivery, possession with intent to deliver, as well as manufacture with intent to deliver drug paraphernalia that are commonly used to manufacture controlled substances. Additionally, the proposal increases the criminal penalties related to the operation of drug factories in Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-277(c).

Gov. Rell recognizes that we have the ability to control the access of products used to manufacture methamphetamines, and I urge the committee to join her and the Department of Consumer Protection in taking this step.

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to address you today to urge your support for SB-844, "An Act Concerning Methamphetamines."